

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-18, 20-22, and 27 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced with any of the above amendments.

Regarding the election of species, Applicants affirm the election of the species of claim 16, pefluoro(alkyl vinyl ether). Claims 1-16, 20-22, 24, and 27-28 read on the elected species. Furthermore, Applicants note that claim 17 lists a species of the genus pefluoro(alkyl vinyl ether).

Regarding the double patenting rejections in the outstanding Office Action, Applicants intend to address these with a Terminal Disclaimer in due course.

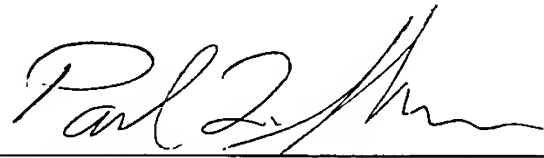
All claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over WO 00/08071. The Examiner contends that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize **known** melt-processible PTFE polymers with superior mechanical properties in order to make durable, strong articles." See paragraph 8 of the outstanding Office Action, emphasis added. In this regard, Applicants note that the Examiner rejected in the outstanding Office Action the polymer featured in claim 1 as **obvious** rather than known. Accordingly, bearing in mind that the polymer in claim 1 has remained unchanged, the Examiner's contention that the article uses a **known** PTFE polymer is inconsistent. Because instant claim 1 is now an article claim, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

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Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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